



CLINICIAN UPDATE, JUNE 2005

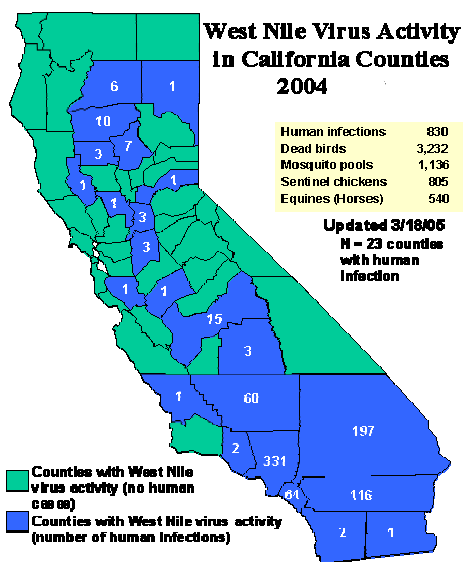
THE WEST NILE FILE



Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

Birds and mosquitoes have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) in Orange County this year. With the recent warm weather, human cases are expected at any time. Consider WNV infection in your patients with aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, or prolonged fever and submit specimens for WNV testing.

- WNV testing is recommended for the following individuals:
 - All hospitalized patients with encephalitis
 - All hospitalized patients with aseptic meningitis (consider enterovirus first in children)
 - All hospitalized patients with acute flaccid paralysis
 - Patients with prolonged febrile illness (≥ 7 days) and symptoms compatible with West Nile infection who see a healthcare provider.
- Diagnosis is best made by serology (IgM or paired acute and convalescent IgG) for WNV. WNV testing is available through commercial laboratories or on a case-by-case basis through Orange County Epidemiology (714) 834-8180.
- Clinical trials are available for the treatment of patients with suspected or confirmed West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease (WNND); for more information, please see www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/wnv/WNVtrials.pdf.



West Nile Virus --Orange County

- Last year, OC reported 64 confirmed cases of WNV, resulting in four deaths. Males made up 69% of the cases. Approximately half of the cases were WNND. Human cases occurred starting in June, peaked in early August, and continued through October.
- No human cases have been reported for 2005.
- WNV disease, aseptic meningitis, and encephalitis are all reportable diseases and should be reported within one working day to OC Epidemiology via phone (714-834-8180) or fax (714-834-8196).
- To report dead birds, call Orange County Vector Control at 714-971-2421 x117.

Educate your patients, friends and family about WNV prevention -- avoiding mosquito bites:

- Eliminate standing water on your property as this is where mosquitoes breed. Drain pots, unclog gutters, and keep swimming pools clean and chlorinated or drained and covered.
- Make sure that door and window screens are in good condition to keep the mosquitoes out.
- When outdoors, use an insect repellent containing DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus or picaridin. Always follow the product directions on the label.
- For more information about prevention: www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/wnv/Repellent.pdf.

Recommended Resources

Orange County Health Care Agency:
www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/wnv

Orange County Vector Control District:
www.ocvcd.org or Ph: 714-971-2421

California Department of Health Services:
www.westnile.ca.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile